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CELEBRATING-OUR-SESQUICENTENNIAL



OCTOBER 2008

PAGE 2. Mayor Winstead on the city's housing market.

PAGE 3. Around the City.

PAGE 4. Earth Action Heroes.

PAGE 5. Caring for our community.

PAGE 6. Not-to-be-missed events.

PAGE 7. Arts and recreation.

PAGE 8. Get out and vote.

25TH ANNUAL NATIONAL NIGHT OUT BLOCK PARTIES SET NEW RECORD



THE 25TH ANNUAL National Night Out was the most successful National Night Out ever for the Bloomington Police Department (BPD). A record-setting 365 block parties registered with the City. Nearly 250 parties were visited by the BPD, Bloomington Fire Department, and Allina Hospitals and Clinics.

In addition, the Bloomington Crime Prevention Association raised \$7,000 for the BPD to help offset expenses from the event.

National Night Out is designed to heighten awareness of crime and drug prevention, generate support for local anticrime programs and strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships.

For more information, call Niki Pierson at 952-563-8808.

86TH STREET TRAIL COMPLETE FINAL SEGMENT OF PEDESTRIAN AND BIKE TRAIL IS OPEN

THE NEW, IMPROVED pedestrian and bike trail along East Bush Lake Road from 106th to 84th Streets provides greater access for pedestrians and cyclists in the area. Construction of the final segment, from Forest Glen Trail leading to the Chalet intersection, was recently completed. The walkway/bikeway provides non-motorized access between the various residential and office developments in the area to Hyland Lake Park Reserve, Bush Lake Beach, Richardson Nature Preserve, Forest Glen Trail and Normandale Lake.

BLOOMINGTON-YESTERDAY



THE TREE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET HOW AN OLD ELM BROUGHT A COMMUNITY TOGETHER

JOHNSON AVENUE, a quiet, narrow street lined with ramblers, once boasted one very unique tree. The elm itself was not unique – although it was a sight with its 20-foot girth. The location made this elm special: The tree stood right smack-dab in the middle of the then unpaved road.

According to Larry Granger, who has lived on Johnson Avenue since 1961, the elm was originally planted as a marker between two farms. Yet it grew into much more. For all the years it stood in front of Granger's house, it served as a landmark, a meeting place, a playground for neighborhood kids, a spot to ring in the New Year, and in the 1960s, a place for teenagers to park their bikes and lounge. The elm was so revered that when it came time for the City to install a sewer line under the street, residents asked that the project not disturb the tree. Thus, the sewer line was installed deep under the tree's roots and the sturdy elm stayed put until 1979 when it succumbed to Dutch elm disease.

Although the giant elm is long gone, every New Year's Eve, Granger and his neighbors go out to the spot where it used to stand and say a toast to the good old days.

PENN AMERICAN DISTRICT PLAN CREATING A DISTINCTIVE, SUSTAINABLE URBAN CENTER

IF YOU'VE PASSED the intersection of American Boulevard and Penn Avenue, you have probably noticed the first development activities connected with the Penn American District Plan. The City Council and the City's Housing and Redevelopment Authority envision a future where neighborhoods in this area thrive side-by-side with high-volume streets and a regional mixed-use center.

The Penn American District Plan will create a blueprint for a livable retail, office and residential urban neighborhood adjacent to the I-494 and I-35W interchange. The development will be transit-oriented, with improved transit service along American Boulevard and new bus rapid transit service on I-35W. In addition, the district's crossroads location makes it a candidate for higher density development.

Transportation considerations include Minnesota Department of Transportation's plans to rebuild the I-494/Lyndale and I-494/I-35W interchanges. Traffic patterns will be transformed after the interchanges are constructed, and traffic on 82nd Street and Penn and Lyndale Avenues north of 82nd Street will increase. The American Boulevard Bridge over I-35W has created an alternate route for local trips and a transit opportunity. Metro Transit is studying the possibility of a bus rapid transit station and a park-and-ride in the area.

Community benefits

The Penn American District Plan will provide the framework for phased redevelopment by defining a vision for:



The Penn American District is adjacent to I-494 and I-35W. This rendition looks southeast with Bloomington in the background.

- Attractive public spaces and unified streetscape.
- A mixture of active uses including retail, office, hotel and multifamily residential.
- Improved transit service and provision for walking and biking.
- Sustainable site planning, building design and construction practices.
- Pedestrian connections with the surrounding neighborhoods.

- High-quality architecture.
- Neighborhood compatibility through careful site design.
- Increased property values in the area by encouraging new services, employment and amenities.

For more information, visit the City's Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Penn American.

The District Plan will be completed in 2009.



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